

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 STR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02

NIC-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 TAR-02 AGR-20 DRC-01 /155 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3814

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA PFOR

SUBJ: CALL ON PRIME MINISTER TANAKA

1. I MADE MY FIRST CALL ON PRIME MINISTER TANAKA DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 8. TANAKA WAS IN A RELAXED AND TALKATIVE MOOD AND OUR CONVERSATION LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR MY WELCOME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER.

2. TANAKA FOCUSED THE DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN, HE SPOKE WITH PERSONAL PRIDE OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1972 IN CORRECTING US-JAPAN TRADE IMBALANCE AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BY END OF CURRENT YEAR US-JAPAN TRADE SHOULD BE ALMOST IN BALANCE. I NOTED SATISFACTION OF USG LEADERS WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT AND OUR APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT. I EXPRESSED SOME UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, WHETHER US-JAPAN TRADE WOULD IN FACT BE IN BALANCE BY END THIS YEAR AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SUSTAIN IMPROVEMENT ACHIEVED THUS FAR. TANAKA AGREED AND STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO WORK HARD TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF FRICTIONS BETWEEN US AND JAPAN IN ECONOMIC AREA.

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2. I NOTED THAT IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT,

AND OTHER USG LEADERS BEFORE COMING TO JAPAN THREE POINTS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE HAD EMERGED: FIRST, IMPORTANCE WHICH ATTACHED TO IMPROVEMENT ACHIEVED IN US-JAPAN TRADE; SECOND, DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN JAPAN'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY; AND THIRD, IMPORTANCE OF GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO DEVELOPING COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MANY COMMON PROBLEMS WE FACE IN WORLD OF ENERGY SHORTAGES AND ESCALATING PRICES. IN THIS CONNECTION, I NOTED THAT PRESIDENT HAD EMPHASIZED TO ME HIS KEEN INTEREST IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH JAPAN AND OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP NEW ENERGY SOURCES AND TO SHARE RESULTS OF OUR OWN R & D. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL HOPE THAT OUR JOINT EFFORTS IN THIS AREA WOULD MOVE STEADILY FROM SHARING OF INFORMATION TO UNDERTAKING JOINT R&D PROGRAMS.

3. TANAKA RESPONDED BY SPEAKING AT SOME LENGTH OF IMPORTANCE OF QTE TRILATERAL UNQTE APPROACH TO DEALING WITH CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION TO US-JAPAN-WESTERN EUROPEAN COOPERATION, HE THOUGHT THERE ALSO POSSIBILITIES FOR EXTENDING THIS APPROACH TO COOPERATION BETWEEN US, PRC AND JAPAN AS WELL AS BETWEEN US, USSR AND JAPAN. SUCH AN APPROACH, HE SUGGESTED, COULD SERVE TO QTE DIFFUSE UNQTE PRESSURES ON US.

4. WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY, TANAKA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND JAPAN, BOTH AT WORKING AND HIGH POLICY LEVEL, CONCERNING SUCH PROBLEMS AS STOCKPILING AND EMERGENCY SHARING. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION AS BOTH COUNTRIES MAKE EVEN GREATER EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS WHICH LIE AHEAD. TANAKA SAID THAT HE ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO JOINT US-JAPAN R&D PROGRAMS IN ENERGY FIELD AND STATED THAT HE INTENDS TO OBTAIN NECESSARY APPROPRIATION TO ENABLE JAPAN TO SHARE IN COSTS OF SUCH PROGRAMS.

5. PRIME MINISTER THEN EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR EMERGING TRENDS IN DIRECTION FORMATION ECONOMIC BLOCS AND PROTECTIONISM. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE BOTH JAPAN AND US ENDEAVOR COUNTER THESE TRENDS BY MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORT TO EXPAND WORLD TRADE AND GET ON WITH SECOND ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, HE STATED HE EARNESTLY HOPED FOR EARLY

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PASSAGE OF TRADE REFORM LEGISLATION BY US CONGRESS. I COMMENTED THAT I SHARED THIS HOPE AND THAT OVER PAST FEW MONTHS PROSPECTS SEEMED TO HAVE IMPROVED SOMEWHAT. I CONCURRED IN HIS CONCERN FOR PROTECTIONISM, NOTING THAT IN JAPAN THIS PROBLEM SEEMS TO CENTER IN AGRICULTURAL AREA. TANAKA ACKNOWLEDGED POINT.

6. TANAKA BROUGHT CONVERSATION TO CLOSE BY URGING THAT I INCLUDE IN MY REPORTINT TELEGRAM FOLLOWING POINTS: A)

QTE TELL THEM THAT TANAKA IS GOING STRONG UNQTE; B) PRIME MINISTER
BELIEVES THAT FOUNDATION OF CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN
JAPAN AND US IS BEING STRENGTHENED MORE AND MORE; AND C)
PRIME MINISTER SENDS HIS WARMEST REGARDS TO PRESIDENT, SECRETARY
KISSINGER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL. I ASSURED HIM THAT
I WOULD DO SO.
HODGSON

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